

CUTS IN EDUCATION

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the effects of the Republican cuts in education funding on my district in California.

We're all aware of the draconian reductions in funding for education programs across the country.

Children all over America will pay a heavy price for the majority party's insistence on slashing the Federal commitment to education.

School districts, too, will suffer as they try to budget and plan for the 1996-97 school year without knowing what to expect from the Federal Government.

For example, funding for title I was reduced by 17.1 percent in one of the continuing resolutions passed earlier this year.

This means a \$122.8 million reduction for California. In Sacramento, the school district estimates that \$2 million will have to be cut from the district budget, eliminating as much as \$65,000 for some of the neediest schools.

Seven to eight schools and approximately 100 teachers and teacher's aides would be cut from the title I program effecting almost 3,300 students. Reading tutorial sites would be closed and educational technology programs would also be eliminated.

My colleagues, the cuts to title I alone are cause for outrage—but when they are added to the cuts to students loans, school lunch programs, job training programs, and Goals 2000—it is hard to fully grasp the impact of these cuts on our children.

Let's not lose sight of the commitment that brings us here today—let us put our children first and reject these mean—spirited cuts.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the 25th the people of Greece and friends of Greece around the world will celebrate the 175th anniversary of Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire.

When Greece regained its independence in 1821, the people of the United States were delighted to learn of the new Greek freedom and restoration of Green independence.

Our President at the time, James Monroe, issued a declaration expressing America's great friendship and sympathies for the cause of Greek freedom.

President Monroe's expression of our sympathies for Greek freedom and democracy was not just an empty promise and it was not just the expression of one person's views.

Over a century later, President Truman came to this House on March 12, 1947, to ask the Congress for its support for what became known as the Truman Doctrine.

Truman described the desperate situation in Greece and how Greek democracy was threatened, and he asked Congress for its

support for an unprecedented American program of economic and military aid to Greece.

By overwhelming and bipartisan votes, the Congress responded quickly to President Truman's request for aid to the Greeks.

By May 15, President Truman was able to sign a bill into law providing for aid to preserve and protect Greek freedom and independence.

One participant in the Truman administration's effort to save Greek democracy later told an historian, "I think it's one of the proudest moments in American history."

And indeed it was.

This long history of friendship and cooperation between the Americans and the Greeks has weathered many a crisis in which the two nations were allies in protecting the cause of democracy and freedom.

During the Second World War, Greeks and Americans fought in the great crusade to rid the world of the evils of the Nazis.

We were allies in that effort, and the alliance continued for the next half century as allies in the struggle against communism and Soviet domination.

It was from his own experiences in the Greek struggle during Second World War that Greece's most famous modern poet, Odysseus Elytis, wrote his poem "To Axiom Esti," in which he described his experiences in the Greek resistance to fascism in World War II.

That poem won Elytis the Nobel Prize in 1979.

Odysseus Elytis died this week, and was buried with high honors as Greece's most beloved poet of this century.

In his poetry, Elytis carried on the long tradition of Greek literature and its contribution to the world's cultural heritage.

This contribution is as significant as their contribution of the concept of democracy has been to the world of politics.

We are all the inheritors of the Greek contribution to our cultural and our political life, and today I join my colleague MIKE BILIRAKIS in wishing the Greek people our very best of wishes as they celebrate 175 years of independence on Monday.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN
THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the manager's amendment offered by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, Mr. SMITH of Texas.

I want to commend the chairman for his consideration of a technical amendment I suggested to section 112(a) of the bill. The amendment clarifies that the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General should consult with a local redevelopment authority when selecting real property at closed military bases for the pilot program concerning detention centers authorized by the section. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities, I can assure the House that we have placed great emphasis on empowering local communities in working with

the Department of Defense to make the best use of military bases closed through the base closure and realignment process.

This technical change would not disturb the ability of the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General to establish the pilot program, but it would ensure that an affected local redevelopment authority is consulted as the pilot program proceeds. This change is consistent with other areas of BRAC law.

Again, I want to thank Mr. SMITH for his consideration of the amendment and his willingness to work with me to bring it to the floor.

THANK YOU AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE ELSMERE FIRE
COMPANY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Elsmere Fire Company on the occasion of its 75th anniversary of leadership and service to the community and the town of Elsmere in my home State of Delaware. For myself, and on behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to thank the Elsmere Fire Company for its many years of dedicated service.

As is typical of the fire departments in Delaware, the Elsmere Fire Company is comprised of dedicated men and women who volunteer their time and talents to help prevent or battle fires and perform emergency medical services for our citizens. In today's world, many fire departments find it difficult to recruit and retain volunteers. With the pressures of work and family, many find it hard to complete the rigorous fire service training. Yet the Elsmere Fire Company has remained a vital and integral part of its community with strong support that has allowed it to grow with the needs of its community. I am particularly grateful and proud of this community's efforts.

At a recent fire company banquet for the volunteers, many were recognized for various areas of service with the department, and many others were honored for decades of service. It is important that the Elsmere Fire Company continue to be able to recruit and retain young men and women who are committed to this outstanding form of public service. The support for the Elsmere Fire Company is strong and the tradition of service is solid.

Although I have not listed all the members of the Elsmere Fire Company, I hope that they all realize how deeply their efforts are appreciated. This company can be proud of its 75 years of dedicated service. Your community tanks you for your commitment and concern.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 1996

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 71 and 72 to amend H.R. 2202. Had I